

see  
column 73

Mrs. Katherine B. Oettinger  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for  
Population and Family Planning  
Department of Health, Education and Welfare  
Washington, D. C. 20201

Dear Mrs. Oettinger:

This is an obviously belated reply to your very kind letter of January 22.  
I am enclosing a copy of it to help refresh your memory.

I do, of course, share your deep concern for infant mortality as a major  
national problem, and also the overwhelming importance of making family  
planning services as widely available as possible.

I had indeed drafted a letter for prompt reply, and if I had included in it  
merely an acknowledgment and thanks for your kind comments on my columns,  
you would have heard from me very much sooner. I did, however, add to it my  
own personal appeal for assistance in funding our own research programs that  
bear in various ways on these problems. But then I thought there was little  
point in burdening you with just one more cry of distress when the overall  
condition of federal finances and the political situation put us all in the  
same dire straits together.

I know I do not have to tell you what the impact of retrenchment in federal  
support in medical research is at the present time, and what its long term  
consequences are going to be.

Yours cordially,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

OETTINGER